

7 April 2006
Friday

READINGS

Psalm 143; Exodus 9:13-35; II Corinthians 4:1-12; Mark 10:32-45

DEVOTION

What is Lent? And what is the meaning of participating in Lent? Lent is a 40-day period of penitence and fasting from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It allows us to meditate, sacrifice and pray in order to become closer to God. As I read the verses for this day I reminisced about how God conquered Pharaoh and his army in order to free the Israelite people from bondage. But what was so intriguing was what God said in the book of Exodus 9:14 RSV, "For this time I will send all my plagues upon your heart, and upon your servants and your people, that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth." What I like about this verse is that it states, exclusively, that "there is none like me in all the earth". As I reflect upon these verses I come to the conclusion that our God is an awesome God who can never be turned, changed nor obliterated. Our God is the same yesterday, today and forever more.

As I read 2 Corinthians 4:1-12, as it pertains to Lent, I am reminded that in life we will have persecution and we will sacrifice ourselves for the name of Christ, but we are victorious with the Spirit of God in our lives. Verses 8-10 state, "We are troubled on every side; yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." I get excited when I read these verses because it means to me that we bear the burden but we also have the victory. So the question is, why Lent? Why observe Lent? The reason for me would be that we think of the sufferings of Christ; his sacrifice, his blood that he shed on Calvary, the stripes he bore for our sins, the marks, the scars, the beatings, and the ill of religiosity for the benefit of humankind. This is a time when we sacrifice our pleasures specifically remembering Christ's sacrifice for us. Finally, as we meditate on how God delivered the Israelites from Pharaoh, it is the same way God delivers us from sin and its price of death. Sin had to let us go because the blood of Christ set us free. Truly, "there is none like the Lord in all the earth".

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